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CALL FOR THE CLAIMS

Gear Talks Indemnity For Ninety-Five.

SCHEME IN THE WIND

He Forestalls Final Action on Act Four by Securing an Adjournment.

One of the principal incidents of the Council of State session yesterday was the calling up of the Indemnity Claims of 1895 by Councillor Gear. The latter questioned the President very closely as to their fate. Gear wanted to know whether the Executive had shelved the claims, or if he was still corresponding with the United States government about them.

The questioning was not wholly unexpected by those in touch with the councillor. He endeavored to pin the President down to a statement as to what would be the probable fate of the claims of those who he stated were arrested as suspects during the troublesome month of January, 1895, but who were not brought to trial. The incident caused no little excitement and some smiles.

Councillor Gear said he had heard it was generally understood that the correspondence between the Executive and the authorities at Washington had finally resulted in the United States referring the claims back to the Hawaiian government for settlement. President Dole in his answer said that he did not understand the reference was made for settlement, but for disposition.

In opening his questions, Councillor Gear emphasized his desire to gain a satisfactory answer.

"I would like to ask a question of the Executive," said he, "on the matter which may have to come up in this bill (Act 4). It is as to the status at present of the claims made against the government by those who were imprisoned as suspects but not brought to trial in 1895—allens. I am given to understand that claims have been presented and have been pushed by the representatives of Great Britain and other countries at Washington, demanding damages.

"Now, after the passage of the Territorial law, making Hawaii a territory to the United States, it appears to me that the force of these claims will fall, and that the force of the reference to this government by the government at Washington, will also fall.

"I would like to ask whether they were referred with instructions to make settlement, and if so, how the money is to be provided?"

President Dole replied at once:

"The claims were reported to this government by the United States government, after being brought up by the English Ambassador at Washington. The United States then referred them to this government. We have several letters from the Washington authorities in the matter. The Executive Council has done a considerable amount of work upon them, but has not been able to finish them on account of the press of other work. At present we can simply report progress."

Getting down a little closer in his questioning, Mr. Gear asked, "Is it the intention of the Executive Council to make settlement of these claims? If so, will it be necessary to call another session of the Council of State to appropriate money to make the settlement of the claims?"

"I don't know what you mean by making a 'settlement' of the claims, Mr. Gear," replied the Executive. "We understood the government at Washington to mean to 're-consider' the claims and dispose of them. We have no request from the Washington government

to pay any claims. Simply, to reconsider them and dispose of them as we understand the matter."

"Then that disposition might mean the simple shelving of the claims, and non-action. Would that transfer the liability from the Republic to the Territory and to the United States government?" said the councillor.

"It would not be non-action, but simply a decision as to the merits of the claims, or a decision against some of the claims," replied the President calmly, awaiting further queries. But they did not come. The councillor sat down, and the incident closed.

Those Quarantine Bills.

The quarantine bills which were incurred during the enforced stay of a large number of Chinese who were detained at Quarantine Island by United States Chinese Inspector J. K. Brown last year, were again the source of much argument in the Council.

In a large measure the argument was based on the liability of the local Government for bills contracted by a Federal officer who declared later he had no responsibility in the maintenance of those in detention. The argument was commenced by the Secretary reading the proceedings which occurred before the Executive on April 18, when J. D. McVeigh was present at a conference, and a stenographic record kept of the conversation which dealt with the question of responsibility of ordering the goods from Honolulu merchants.

President Dole said: "The Executive Council has endeavored to secure information upon the subject but have not been able to as far as they wish. Mr. Reynolds is absent and we can get no information from him yet. Probably the final obligation to pay these bills is on the Government of the United States. But if the agent of the Board of Health ordered these goods on account of the Board, this Government is liable. Mr. Reynolds' statements disagree with Mr. McVeigh's. Mr. Reynolds says he ordered all the

goods, and Mr. McVeigh says all he ordered were on account of the detention of the Chinese, and that no reference was made to the Board of Health, for when goods are ordered for Chinese detained as these were, they were charged to the ship directly responsible for their landing. If Mr. Reynolds' statement is correct, the Government here is liable. If Mr. McVeigh's statement is correct, it is not liable. Mr. McStocker, the Collector General at the time, was acting with Mr. Brown, and both were acting for the United States."

Mr. Bolte, who has been narrowly watching the progress of the various bills since their introduction into the Council of State, arose to urge the liability of the local Government in the matter. It was understood, he said, at one time when the Metropolitan Meat Company declined to furnish further supplies of meat, that Mr. Reynolds had stated that upon the assurance of W. O. Smith, at that time President of the Board of Health, the latter body would pay the bills. Acting on this, the meat was supplied regularly. He thought the irregularity came in not having required the steamer to give a bond for the maintenance of the Chinese.

Arguments on the Bills.

Councillor Robertson did not think the "government should pay bills and then try to collect them from some imaginary person or government." His argument was based on the fact that the merchants knew exactly what kind of contract they were entering, as the whole country was alive with the news of the habeas corpus cases before the Supreme Court, dealing with the very people they were called upon to supply. The community was entirely familiar with the decision which Chief Justice Judd rendered and the final appeal to Washington. His speech against the

(Continued on Page 2.)

FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

Municipal League to Be Formed.

RESEARCH CLUB OUTCOME

Plans Outlined at Meeting Last Night When T. McCants Stewart and E. M. Boyd Spoke.

The Municipal League, formed for the purpose of studying forms of city government, which will embrace the young men of the community without regard to race or opinions, will be the outcome of the meeting of the Research Club in the drawing-room of Dr. W. M. Kincaid last evening. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering what political action might be taken but that phase was lost in the unanimous vote in favor of the report of the committee which had spent two weeks in considering the course which might best be followed.

Percy M. Pond, chairman of the committee, reported that it had been decided that there should be a committee of five, named by Chairman Case,

which should call to its aid such young men of the community as they needed and the augmented committee should frame a scheme of action to be submitted to a general meeting which would be called at a future date. That meeting will be the first of a series which will form and continue the Municipal League. It was proposed that the object of the League should be the study of municipal questions and perhaps embody the results in a charter which might be submitted to the Legislature for ratification.

The discussion of the question brought out many speakers, but the burden of the talk was that there was needed now some body which would discuss the many plans for city government, assemble a library devoted to civic topics and furnish a medium for education in city matters for the young men who will make up the electorate of the future municipality. The speakers brought out the fact that there was to be no close corporation but that every class and race would be urged to take part in these discussions so that the work accomplished would be without any savor of partisanship, but would appeal to all citizens as the best possible basis for an organic law.

Lorin Andrews opened the discussion of the motion to adopt the committee's report. He urged that acquaintance with all sides of the question was needed and that such an organization as was proposed would bring together men whose knowledge of local conditions would enable them to frame such a charter as would be best for the city. Mr. Andrews said that as the Legislature would pass upon any charter for the city that the election of good men to that body must not be overlooked in the needs of the city. Professor Hoamer took the stand that good city government could only come from every man doing his whole

(Continued on Page 3.)

THE NOBLE ARMY OF HONOLULU JOB CHASERS MARCHING ON THE EXECUTIVE BUILDING IN SEARCH OF VERY LITTLE WORK AND GREAT BIG SALARIES

